

CLAIMS

Claim 1. A plant container comprising:

a receptacle for receiving soil therein;

said receptacle having a rear panel thereon;

means for removably mounting said rear panel of said receptacle to a supporting surface; and

retaining means operatively associated with said receptacle for retaining soil in said receptacle.

Claim 2. The plant container as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said means for mounting said rear panel to a supporting surface includes means for removably mounting said rear panel to a supporting surface.

Claim 3. The plant container as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a reservoir is defined within said receptacle, and said means for retaining soil in said receptacle is received, at least in part, in said reservoir.

Claim 4. The plant container as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said means for retaining includes an engagement element adapted

to engage at least a portion of an upper layer of soil received within said receptacle.

Claim 5. The plant container as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said upper layer of soil received within said receptacle is a solid mass, and said engagement element of said means for retaining engages said solid mass of said upper layer of soil.

Claim 6. The plant container as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said means for retaining includes a vertical element connected to said engagement element, said vertical element adapted to be received in said reservoir such that said engagement element is above the upper layer of soil in said receptacle when the bottom end of said vertical element engages the bottom of said reservoir.

Claim 7. The plant container as claimed in Claim 6 further including the guide means defined at the bottom of said reservoir for receiving and retaining said vertical element in a predetermined position within said reservoir.

Claim 8. The plant container as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said guide means comprises at least two opposed raised ribs extending upwardly from the bottom surface of said reservoir, the bottom end of said vertical element of said means for retaining being removably received between said two opposed raised ribs.

Claim 9. The plant container as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said means for retaining includes an upper element extending from the top end of said vertical element.

Claim 10. The plant container as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said upper element includes locking means for removably locking said upper element to said rear panel of said plant container.

Claim 11. The plant container as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said locking means includes at least one locking tab adapted to be removably insertable into a corresponding opening defined in said rear panel of said plant container.

Claim 12. The plant container as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said upper element of said means for retaining is disposed above the top of said reservoir defined in said plant container.

Claim 13. The plant container as claimed in Claim 12, wherein at least one opening is defined in said upper element of said means for retaining, said opening being in fluid communication with said reservoir for replenishing the contents of said reservoir through said at least one opening.

Claim 14. The plant container as claimed in Claim 1, further including means for removably mounting said means for retaining in said receptacle.

Claim 15. The plant container as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said engagement element, said vertical element, and said upper element of said means for retaining are integrally joined together to form a single unit.

Claim 16. The plant container as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said engagement element of said means for retaining is oriented at a substantially perpendicular angle to said vertical element, and said upper element extends from said vertical element at an angle other than perpendicular.

Claim 17. A plant container comprising:

a receptacle for receiving soil therein;

said receptacle having a rear panel thereon;

means for removably mounting said rear panel of said receptacle to a supporting surface; and

retaining means operatively associated with said receptacle for retaining soil in said receptacle;

said retaining means being removably mountable within said receptacle;

said retaining means comprising a vertical element, an engagement element extending from said vertical element and oriented to be above the upper layer of soil in said receptacle, and an upper element extending from the top of the vertical element;

said receptacle defining a reservoir therein, and said upper element of said means for retaining being disposed above the top of said reservoir when said means for retaining is removably received within said receptacle.

Claim 18. The plant container as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said upper element of said means for retaining defines at least one opening therein, said at least one opening being in fluid communication with said reservoir for replenishing fluid in said reservoir through said at least one opening.

Claim 19. A plant container comprising:

a receptacle for receiving soil therein;

said receptacle having a rear panel thereon;

means for removably mounting said rear panel of said receptacle to a supporting surface;

retaining means operatively associated with said receptacle for retaining soil in said receptacle;

said retaining means including a vertical element, an engagement element extending from said vertical element and oriented above the upper layer of soil in said receptacle, and an upper element extending from the top of said vertical element; and

means for releasably locking said retaining means in said plant container.

Claim 20. The plant container as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said means for releasably locking said retaining means in said plant container includes guide means in said receptacle for receiving the bottom end of said vertical element therein, and at least one locking tab at the top of said upper element releasably insertable into at least one corresponding opening defined in said rear panel of said plant container.